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THE ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE

By Dr. ROBERT F. GRIGGS

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OVER and over again as I endeavor to facilitate the contributions of biology and agriculture toward winning the war, I encounter the unorganized and incoherent condition of our group of sciences. I have come to believe that this lack of organization, and the lack of unified objectives that goes with it, is of itself partly responsible for the comparatively ineffective application of biology and agriculture to the needs of a total war.

To assist in clarifying our functions and our responsibilities, I have constructed an organization chart (Fig. 1). In its conception the chart is entirely abstract. Its contact with the present situation comes through the numbered references in the appropriate boxes to the national technical societies in whose hands to a large extent lies the professional guidance

of those arts and sciences by which man produces his food and the organic raw materials which he uses in his civilization.

To point out that the products of the soil constitute the most fundamental and the only really essential factors in man's existence is to state a truism to which there is no occasion to call your attention. The chart is presented, rather, to emphasize the complexity of the problem of organization which is faced by biology, using that term in its widest sense including its applications.

The outstanding feature of biology and agriculture, and it must immediately occur upon any consideration of these fields, is the number and diversity of the organizations included in the group. Whereas chemists of all sorts support one strong chemical society,

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